



# MMA TIMES

MILITARY MARKSMANSHIP ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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[www.militarymarksmanship.org](http://www.militarymarksmanship.org)

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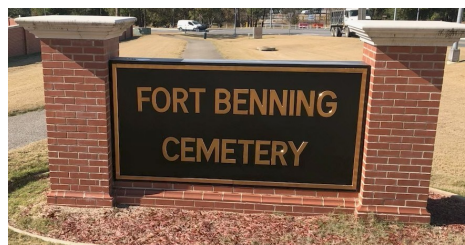
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Membership applications are  
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[www.militarymarksmanship.org](http://www.militarymarksmanship.org)

## In Remembrance of Memorial Day FORT BENNING POST CEMETERY

By MMA Historian, Bruce Meredith



The first burial (internment) on Fort Benning was PVT William Hart, 15 Tank Bn, December 10, 1922, found on post, apparently murdered. There are now close to 11,000 individuals resting



at this location. Included are three Medal of Honor recipients, one each from WWII (Nett), Korea (Schowalter) and Vietnam (Johnston). From the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and dignitaries, there are Admirals, Generals and family members and dependents. Also, some only unknown, infants and a 1960 Olympic Boxing Gold Medalist, CSM Edward Crook, Jr.



The post cemetery signage was changed to Fort Moore in 2023, in honor and memory of LTG Harold Moore and his wife, Julia Moore, both of whom are interred here. For years the Fort Benning cemetery entrance sign was a black and gold fixture. When the post name changed to Fort Moore, a similar sign was installed. Then the change back to Fort Benning. Today, when I went, there is a black and white sign that looks temporary. I smiled and asked the cemetery manager if this is temporary until the next presidential election. His response was, "no decision yet, but there is a possibility of a digital sign that can be programmed to change the letters". Many signs on post show Fort Benning, but most of the GA DOT signs directing to post still show Fort Moore! Among those with association with the Army Marksmanship Unit are CSM William Blankenship, Jr. (triple distinguished) and MAJ Tommy Mueller, Distinguished Rifleman. In addition to in ground burials, there is a special columbarium section for cremated ashes. The placement of the ashes is known as an inurnment. From the AMU, you will find MSG William Krilling and LTC Phillip Cannella, Jr. In some cases, ashes will be placed in ground. This is often called an internment/inurnment. Thus, family members might have a combination of both.

During the period of WWII, Prisoners of War were held in many locations in the United States, including Fort Benning, where some died while in captivity. There are graves of 44 German POWs (one LTG) and seven Italian. There are also graves of four Chinese Nationalist pilots.

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## MMA President's Report

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Dear Member,

In the December edition of the MMA Times, we celebrated an extraordinary milestone in our organization's history. Through the hard work of the MMA Executive Board and the incredible generosity of our members and supporters, we successfully raised over \$67,272 to support the creation of a permanent exhibit for the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU) in the National Infantry Museum (NIM) at Fort Benning, Georgia.

However, as the project progressed and the museum's foundation staff finalized all the material and associated costs, we were recently informed that the total required funding has increased to over \$90,000. This new figure includes not only the exhibit's construction cost, but also essential materials, design, installation, and long-term maintenance to preserve its quality and significance.

The good news is that the MMA remains financially healthy. We were able to move forward with exhibit construction. But to avoid depleting our operating fund balance—which supports other important MMA programs—we are now faced with a new and urgent goal: raise at least another

\$25,000 to close this final funding gap.

We urge all MMA members—lifetime, annual, and new supporters—to help us complete this renewed fundraising mission. Our plan is to unveil the AMU exhibit during the upcoming MMA Reunion in Fort Benning on Friday, October 3, 2025.

This exhibit is a tribute to the extraordinary legacy of the 'Home of Champions,' honoring the Army Marksmanship Unit's achievements and its impact on marksmanship excellence within our military and beyond.

To those who were not able to donate in our initial fundraising campaign, please come to the aid of your organization by contributing as large a donation as your able to make.

To those of you that previously donated, we are truly grateful for your generosity. Please consider contributing once again to help us close this funding gap.

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Details from our initial fundraising effort – \$67,272 collected

36 MMA member donations totaled \$19,800.

In addition, four (4) \$10,000 donations were particularly noteworthy. Special thanks to Dave Erickson for donating \$10K to match the first \$10K donated by MMA members, to Don Harmon for donating \$10K, and to Ellen and David Ross III for donating \$10K in memory of Sue Ann Sandusky. In addition, thanks to corporate donations from the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) as they donated \$10K from the proceeds their rifles generated in a special on-line auction, and to U.S. Sugar for donating \$7.5K.

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Please Donate Now!

The funds need to be received by the National Infantry Museum Foundation.

All donations are tax deductible.

Online donations can be made at the following link: <https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/NationalInfantryFoundation/AMUDisplayCase.html>

If paying by check, mail your donations to the following address and make the check payable to the National Infantry Museum Foundation. Note specifically your donation is for the AMU Exhibit Only.

National Infantry Foundation  
1775 Legacy Way  
Columbus, GA 31903

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## USAMU Commander's Report



Fellow MMA Members,

The Army Marksmanship Unit's competitive teams have been incredibly busy over the last few months! Competing in over 50 competitions across the board, AMU shooters have demonstrated all year that we remain the home of the best shooting competitors in the world. Below are just some of their accomplishments this quarter:

- Olympic Silver Medalist SSG Maddalena earned the gold medal in Women's 50m Smallbore at the ISSF World Cup in Lima, Peru
- SSG Elliot secured gold in Men's Skeet at the ISSF World Cup in Buenos Aires, Argentina, followed by SFC Eller taking silver and SSG Hinton taking bronze.
- SSG Hinton and SSG Taylor both earned gold medals in Men's Trap and Men's Skeet, respectively, at the ISSF World Cup in Lima, Peru. SGT Simonton and SSG Elliott also both earned silver.
- Action Shooting Team member SGT Wiedell dominated the Magpul Texas 3-gun championship, taking first place with a 5% lead of the second place competitor.
- Action Shooting Team member SSG Harmon took first place at the Precision Rifle Series Snake River Standoff in Boise, ID, beating 131 of the nation's top competitors.
- Service Pistol also dominated the Dixie Match Pistol Regional Championship in Jacksonville, FL, with SFC Markowski claiming gold, with SFC Franks and SSG Gregoire claiming silver and bronze, respectively. In the same week, SSG Standard and SSG Heinauer placed 1st and 2nd at the Sweet Home Alabama Glock Sport Federation match in Shorter, AL.
- Service Rifle swept the podium at the CMP Eastern Games at Camp Butner, NC. SSG McGaffic, SPC Carr, and SPC Linse placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.
- SGT Eddins from Action Shooting also won the Open Division at the IPSC French Nationals, while SSG Hetherington placed 2nd in the Production Optics Division.

As we move into Summer, the international competition circuit heats up, with International Rifle, Shotgun, and pistol competitions in Italy, Germany, Denmark, and the Czech Republic. We are also all looking forward to the National Matches at Camp Perry, and the Sergeant Major and I are really looking forward to linking up with any MMA members that we can meet there. I continue to be honored to serve in this illustrious company of world class shooters, and as always, I'll see you on the range!

Home of Champions,

Chris

Commander

U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit



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If you'd rather pay by phone, you can call "Lynn" at the National Infantry Foundation. Advise her that your donation is for the AMU Exhibit Only. Her phone number is 706-685-2603.

Thank you in advance for your generous support!

The MMA community (both members and friends of the organization) has already demonstrated what we can achieve together. Now, we have a unique opportunity to rally once more in support of preserving the AMU's legacy in a permanent home that will inspire future generations.

Thank you for being part of the Military Marksmanship Association and for helping us enshrine the legacy of the Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning for years to come.

With gratitude,  
Ron Plumb  
President, Military Marksmanship Association

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According to the cemetery manager, reservations for internment stopped in 1975. There are about 40 reservations still open for individuals who have not yet died. However, spouses or descendants can still be accepted in the same plot for those already interred. The columbarium is still accepting ashes for inurnment and there are plans for the expansion of the columbarium. The post has very specific rules for the placement of flowers or other items at a grave site.

Officially, the Fort Benning/Fort Moore cemetery is NOT a VA cemetery. Rules might be different. The closest VA cemetery is located at Fort Mitchell, AL, across the Chattahoochee River from post. A number of former AMU members have graves which are located there.



# REUNION 2025

SAVE THE DATE: October 3-5, 2025

WHERE: Fort Benning, GA

You are cordially invited to a reunion of past and present soldiers and civilians assigned to the United States Army Marksmanship Unit. Fun, memories and maybe some truth stretching will be on the agenda. Including the dedication of the permanent USAMU Display in the National Infantry Museum. The proposed schedule:

## FRIDAY

Open Registration and Merchandise Table - 9am

Light Lunch (catered) provided by MMA – 12:00 to 1:00pm

Dedication of AMU Display at the NIM – 1:30pm

Explore the NIM—2:00pm to 4:00pm?

Section Dinners at Restaurants (TBD) – 6:00pm

## SATURDAY

MMA Meeting and Election of Officers – 10am

Black Hats awarded to former members

Shotgun Raffle Drawing—must be present to win!

Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony (TBD)

BBQ (catered by Country's BBQ) provided by MMA – 12:00

**If you have any suggestions for activities please forward your ideas to [wrijbronze@outlook.com](mailto:wrijbronze@outlook.com).  
The MMA President is working to make this reunion memorable!**

Suggestions for places to stay:

Abrams Hall—3 nights for \$533.52 including taxes (Military Leasure Rate) - 833-378-1697

McGiver Suites are \$135 single and \$160 double.

Uchee Creek cabins are \$100 for single and \$185 for double.

The number for reservations of the last two listed is 706-545-4053.



Capt. Joshua Raftopoulos relinquished command of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit to Capt. Mary Taylor on June 23, 2025 at Fort Benning, GA.





## 2024 MMA Winners

Last issue we ran a photo of the 2024 winners of the Shooter of the Year, New Shooter of the Year and Support Person of the Year. Here is some background information on each.

### 2024 Shooter of the Year – SSG Sagan Madalena

Sagan not only won the 2024 Olympic Silver Medal in Women's 3-Position Rifle in Paris, but also established the Olympic Record in the Qualification Round. She competed in both Smallbore Rifle and Air Rifle and was the National Champion in both Air Rifle and Smallbore 3-Position.

She also won the Gold Medal at the Championships of the Americas (CAT) in April 2024 in Women's 10m Air Rifle, Women's 50m 3-Position Rifle and Open 50m Smallbore Prone.

### 2024 New Shooter of the Year - SPC Jake Hill

SPC Hill supports the Action Shooting Section within the Custom Firearms Shop. His knowledge and expertise have greatly increased the effectiveness of the team directly resulting in 40 first place finishes in national matches and 2 national titles during the 2024 shooting season.

SPC Hill has assisted in 4 major Lethality based R&D projects this year. His knowledge and skills have aided in collecting invaluable data that is being used to shape the future of NGSW and LICC/ IWS capabilities.

SPC Hill competed in the 2024 Quantified Performance matches finishing the season 3rd overall in the Open division. SPC Hill competes in these matches on his own time driven by motivation to be a well-rounded member of his team. His performance and dedication have greatly impacted the Action Shooting Team and has set the example for soldiers in his Section.

### 2024 Support Person of the Year – Mr. Troy Lawton

Mr. Lawton serves as the lead ballisticsian at Parks Range for the Custom Firearms Shop (CFS). His knowledge, expertise, and attention to detail has made him a much sought after source of information for the AMU as well as other DoD entities. He has ensured that all

AMU competition teams have what they need for success resulting in 313 total medals over 138 different competitions.

Mr. Lawton's cooperation and consultation with other DoD entities has resulted in many working partnerships. He has worked directly with entities such as DEVCOM, SOCOM, and IVTSD aiding them with testing and serving as a consultant. He was also involved with the LICC and NGSW programs, where his counsel and aid with testing has helped these programs grow as they test new weapon systems and their capabilities.

Mr. Lawton also competes in the Precision Rifle Series (PRS) on his personal time for his own enjoyment but also to increase his working knowledge of the demands of competition. This past season he competed in 6 PRS National Matches shooting alongside members of the AMU and other top competitors in the nation.



## Blast from the Past: 1982 World Shooting Championships Men's Skeet Team

from the January 1983 THE AMERICAN MARKSMAN

With a first-place team finish and the first, second and fifth individual places, everyone left Caracas in agreement that the United States is the best in the world in skeet.

The U.S. victory was particularly sweet because the world record of 593 set by Matt Dryke, Alger Mullins, Dean Clark and Neil Cummiskey in last year's Championship of the Americas had come on the heels of a disappointing sixth place finish in the World Moving Target Championship at Tucamon, Argentina, which preceded it. Many shot-gun experts were saying U. S. shooters might be able to shoot good scores, but not under World Championship pressure. Caracas stopped that talk.

The U.S. victory included excellent scores by Dan Carlisle (USAMU), Dean Clark (future USAMU and USAMU Shotgun Coach) and Matt Dryke (USAMU), but the fourth man, Al Mullins (USAMU), may have put on the most courageous performance. Mullins was sick with an influenza-type ailment that struck many shooters in Caracas and was barely able to get out of bed on the first day. He shot with a 102 degree temperature, but he kept the United States in the team competition.

The U.S. individual victories by Carlisle and Clark were as exciting as their team performance was decisive. Carlisle, 26, a Sergeant in the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, Clark, a 22-year old Kent State University student and Norbert Hofmann, a 19-year old West German, all finished with 199, just one point under Matt Dryke's world record to set the stage for what may have been skeet shooting's greatest international championship shootoff.

In the first shootoff round, all three shooters had 25's, although Clark and Carlisle had close calls by just getting chips out of the front of station six high-house birds that were slowed down by the strong wind. In the second shoot-off round Hoffman missed his station three low-house double and settled for the bronze medal.



UIT (later the ISSF) rules state that if a tie is not broken after three shootoff rounds, duplicate awards will be given. As the final round neared an end, it appeared that the U.S. was going to end up with two gold medal winners, but when Clark took his double on station six, a broken bird came out of the high house. He smashed the biggest chip but had to shoot again. On the repeat, the high-house bird got away.

Carlisle, who was one of the few shooters using a semi-auto, stunned the crowd by letting his station eight high-house bird get over his head before breaking it, but his last shot, a station eight low house bird, was a routine break to top off 10 consecutive 25 straights and become the new world champion.

The U.S. Skeet Team victory was significant in another respect. While most U.S. international competitors have been forced to use foreign-made equipment because of its superior design and workmanship, the U.S. Skeet Team used American-made Remington shotguns. Carlisle used a rebuilt Model 1100 and the other three shooters used Model 3200 over-unders.

(Note: In 1983 at the Pan American Games in Caracas, Dan Carlisle set the World Record in Men's Trap with the first 200x200 in history and won the gold medal. Matt Dryke won the Men's Skeet gold medal with 199x200.)

## !!The Scores Are In!!

The 64th Interservice Rifle Championships winners have been crowned:

Highpower Match: Spc. Zevin Linse, AMU

Highpower Long Range Matches:

- Service Rifle: Spc. Adam Fitzpatrick, AMU
- Any Sight / Any Optic: Sgt. 1st Class Amanda Elsenboss, ARNG

PCSL 1-Gun:

- Practical: Cpl. Tanner Wright, Lejeune Shooting Team
- Competition: Cpl. Nathan Sypeck, Marine Aerial Refueling Squadron 234

QP Gas Gun:

- General Purpose: Sgt. Riley Stewart, Marksmanship Training Company
- Open: Sgt. Jacob Zupke, MCST

Overall:

- 1st Place: Sgt. Jacob Zupke, MCST
- 2nd Place: Staff Sgt. Samuel Nelson, MCST
- 3rd Place: Sgt. Jeremy Lutz, MCST

Quantico, VA

Sgt. Levi J. Guerra, Lance Cpl. Harleigh Faulk, and Lance Cpl. Federico S. Marquez  
[#USMC](#) [#marines](#) [#usmcshootingteam](#) [#competitioninarmsprogram](#) [#interservice](#)

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## Blast from the Past: 1982 USAMU Pistol Team



In 1982 the USAMU Pistol Team accomplished the first “clean sweep” of the Inter-Service Championships. While pistol squads from previous years had won all events at the Inter-Service Matches, this was the first time it was done by the same four firing members of the Army Team. The “whisk broom” trophy at USAMU headquarters was presented to the USAMU Commander, Colonel Stanley J. Parmentier by the All-Guard Executive Officer after the Matches. The Members of the Blue Team (L-R) were MSG Ronald F. Martere, Head Coach, MSG Roger H. Willis, MSG Thomas R. Woods, SGM Max J. Barrington, and MSG Joe Steed Jr. This team went on to win the National Championship in the following year. MSG Willis won the individual national championship in 1983. SGM Barrington won the title of

Civilian Champion after his retirement. MSG Woods won the National title after placing 2nd on numerous occasions. MSG Steed, not to be outdone, won the .45 Caliber Championships during his tenure with USAMU.